



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# News Release

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## **ICE ARRESTS MEXICAN NATIONAL MURDER SUSPECT IN OXNARD** *Fugitive is second accused Mexican murderer arrested by ICE in LA area this month*

OXNARD, California – For the second time in a week, officers with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have arrested a Mexican national in the Los Angeles area who is wanted for murder in his native country.

Gonzalo Vasquez Ortiz, 29, was taken into custody on immigration violations by officers from ICE's fugitive operations team at a residence in Oxnard early Thursday morning. ICE was assisted by members of the Los Angeles Regional Fugitive Task Force, including officers from the United States Marshals Service and the Los Angeles Police Department's Foreign Prosecution Liaison Unit.

Vasquez is being sought by Mexican authorities for the December 2003 slaying of Samuel Diaz Aguilar. According to witnesses, Vasquez gunned the victim down outside a nightclub in Oaxaca.

This morning, federal officers transported Vasquez to the border crossing at San Ysidro where he was turned over to representatives from the Mexican Attorney General's Office. At the time of his arrest, Vasquez, who was in the United States illegally, was carrying a fraudulent "green card" and social security card.

Vasquez's capture comes less than a week after ICE fugitive operations officers arrested a Mexican national in Palmdale who was wanted in the State of Jalisco for killing a man in a dispute over a herd of goats. Last month, ICE officers in Los Angeles arrested and repatriated a notorious Mexican bank robber, Alfredo Rios Galeana, who was known in his native country as "public enemy number one."

"Our message to foreign fugitives is, 'you may try to run, but you cannot hide,'" said Gloria Kee, field office director for ICE detention and removal operations in Los Angeles. "We're going to do everything in our power to keep fleeing criminals from using our communities as a refuge."

In the last ten months, ICE's fugitive operations teams in Los Angeles have arrested 14 Mexican nationals wanted on outstanding murder warrants by authorities south of the border.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*